

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2001/03/03 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100040032-9

CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY									
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SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMIS.
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER FOR MR FRYM. NMCC//ATTENTION
CIA REP. TREASURY DEPT//INFO MR JOHN YEO.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 06

DATE: 12 APR 74

SUBJECT: ASAD'S VISIT @IN MOSCOW

REF : FBIS 132, 1915 GMT, 11 APR 74; FBIS 53, 1143 GMT 12
APR 74; FBIS 63, 1215 GMT, 12 APR 74

SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD CONCLUDED HIS TALKS WITH SOVIET LEADERS
TODAY, ACCORDING TO TASS, AND WILL LEAVE TOMORROW FOR DAMASCUS.
BOTH THE TIMING AND OF ASAD'S VISIT AND THE BREVITY OF THE
SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS SUGGEST THAT HE MAY HAVE ACCEPTED THE
SOVIETS' INVITATION MAINLY TO ASSUAGE THEIR SENSITIVITIES ABOUT
BEING EXCLUDED FROM THE WASHINGTON DISENGAGEMENT TALKS. ASAD
PROBABLY ALSO HOPED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT STRENGTHAINS
IN SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS TO STRENGTHEN SOVIET SUPPORT FOR
SYRIA'S NEGOTIATING STANCE AND TO PRESS MOSCOW FOR MORE MILITARY

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	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

ASSISTANCE.

ASAD EXPRESSED SYRIA'S EAGERNESS TO EXPAND COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND TO STRENGTHEN THE TWO COUNTRIES' FRIENDSHIP. HE THANKED THE SOVIETS FOR THEIR "CONSTANT SUPPORT" OF SYRIA'S OBJECTIVES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL. HE WARNED THAT THE OCTOBER WAR WAS NOT YET OVER AND WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE ISRAELIS WITHDREW FROM ALL ARAB TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND THE FULL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS WERE RESTORED.

IN HIS DINNER SPEECH THURSDAY NIGHT, BREZHNEV MADE NO EFFORT TO HIDE HIS DISPLEASURE WITH EGYPTIAN AND US DIPLOMACY. REFERRING TO THE BILATERAL DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, HE CRITICIZED THE "ERZATZ-PLANS," WHICH ARE AIMED AT REPLACING AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT WITH "PARTIAL" AGREEMENTS. HE STRESSED ONCE AGAIN THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE HAD BEEN SET UP AS THE AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL FORUM AND ONLY THERE "CAN AND MUST" A SETTLEMENT BE WORKED OUT.

AT A LUNCHEON SPEECH TODAY, PRESIDENT PODGORNYY REFERRED TO "AGREEMENTS" WITH SYRIA, BUT NO DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE. AN END-OF-THE VISIT COMMUNIQUE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN APPROVED, ALTHOUGH

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	2		5		8		11	
	3		6		9		12	

IT PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL ASAD HAS LEFT. BOTH SIDES
REPORTEDLY REAFFIRMED THEIR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO SEEK
PEACE BASED ON THE LIBERATION OF ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY AND
THE RESTORATION OF THE "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF
PALESTINE." E2 IMPDET.H 25X1A9a

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